

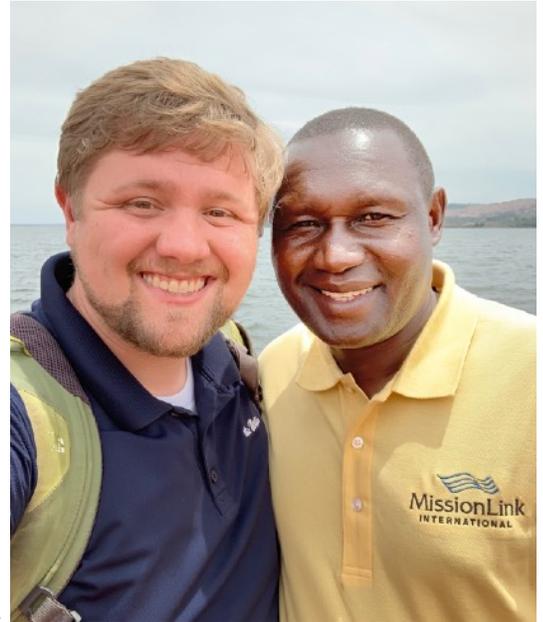
The Link

God's Mission is My Mission

God's heartbeat is for the nations and because it's His heartbeat, it should be mine as well

In February, a gentleman from our church along with myself traveled with Mission Link International for a fourteen day short-term mission trip to Uganda (pictured below is Richard Caldwell & Pastor Aaron). Altogether, the ten member team was able to conduct three large crusades in villages with special focuses in pastoral training, pastor's wives encouragement, and children's ministry. Other days were spent ministering to widows, holding eye-glass clinics, preaching in a local prison, outreach to street kids, as well as one-on-one personal evangelism in a local hospital. By far, one of the greatest blessings was being able to spend time with the Uganda Mission Link Staff. Their love for Christ and commitment to His work are incredibly profound.

The experience of the trip reminded me afresh and anew of two great truths. First, the LORD reminded me of the great impact that is made when God's people *give* to the work of world missions. Missions is primarily the responsibility of the local church — and the church is not a building but rather it is the *people*. While being in Africa, I had the opportunity to see many different types of "church buildings." In some places the buildings were constructed with concrete walls, metal roofs, and had fabric cushioned benches, others were made out of brick walls, thatched roofs and had plastic chairs, some were made out of sticks and mud and people sat on the ground, and in some cases a new church plant would meet under a large shade tree. However, every local Body of Christ with whom we gathered was not a church because of their *building*, but because they were a group of *redeemed people*. The bond that we have *in Christ* is the common denominator which draws us together. Context and culture are different all around the world, but our identity as the church of Jesus Christ remains the same. If you have been born again, and are now *in Christ and a part of His family*, the task of world missions is OUR responsibility. Christ's followers have been *commissioned* to "Go . . . and make disciples of all nations" (Matt. 28:19).



In addition to being reminded of the great impact that is made when God's people give to the work of world missions, I was also reminded that each follower of Christ has been commissioned to be *personally involved* in advancing God's kingdom in the present. God has a plan and purpose for each individual life. He's the Great Architect of His church. He is the One who has drawn the blueprint — and as *living stones* we *each* are a part of and have a part to play in the building. Your life matters. In His grace, the gifts He has given you, the location where He has placed you, the relationships He has led you to, and the resources He has entrusted to you — are so that, you might use your life to impact others for His praise and glory! While in Africa, Dr. Rick gave us the opportunity and assignment to spend a day with an African. I spent the day with Pastor James Mafabi (Pictured Above Right is Pastor Aaron & Pastor James Mafabi of Mission Link Christian Church). Both of us have pastored nearly the same length of time, but in completely different contexts. We sat down over a cup of coffee for nearly three hours, and then spent the rest of the afternoon visiting his home and meeting his family. Our time together was a great encouragement! Even though ministry context looks different, basic human need is the same. Together we shared delights and challenges of pastoral ministry and spent time praying for one another. In the weeks being back in the States, Pastor James and I have corresponded through email and have made the commitment to pray for one another before our services on Sunday. In sharing my experience with our church in Catawba, I recounted how impactful it would be if *each person* had the opportunity to experience a short-term mission trip to another country at least once! Pictures and videos, although helpful, fall short in communicating the power of a *personal* connection. Our Christianity in America has been steeped by the context of our society, and going to a different part of the world helps you understand what things in our own culture have been wrongly inflated. All that God has entrusted to you is an evidence of His Grace, would you pray and ask the LORD how He would have you *GIVE* as well as in what way you can be *PERSONALLY INVOLVED* in the great endeavor of world missions.

Pastor Aaron

Pastor Aaron Mansfield serves as the Senior Pastor at Catawba Valley Baptist Church in Catawba, Virginia

News Brief

OUR GENERAL FUND HAS GAIN MOMENTUM, BUT WE REALLY NEED A SERIOUS INJECTION: Mission Link International accomplishes many projects in Africa as well as acting being a channel for funds from the USA to East Africa. **This month alone we forwarded to Kenya over \$24,000** to help with the hunger crisis due to drought. Also, we have a General Fund that covers many administration and mission needs. **Your gift to the general fund is a vital source and blessing.** Thank you so much!

WIDOW'S PROJECTS: (1) The chicken project in Mafubira continues to strengthen as our new batch of 317 chickens (33 have died leaving 317) are gaining weight. **Any gift toward this project (feed/shots) is appreciated.** (2) **Our Itukulu project** is ready to build on our recently purchased land. Building a small facility for the milling machine (and grain storage) is MLI's first priority. We do not have a budget, but at this point let's start with **\$1800** "to begin" with footers and brick walls. Additional info coming in the next newsletter. (3) **Esther's House** is being constructed & continues to move forward (**donors please continue to fund**). **OTHER MLI PROJECTS:** (4) **Uway Church's** first phase is funded! Funds received places a roof on the structure. Next will be siding (metal or bricks). **Your contribution will be greatly appreciated toward the next phase.** (5) **Mary Kunya** (wife of our bookkeeper) has a business that needs a refrigerated juicer **\$670**. This will provide great income for her and the family.

REMODELING USA MISSION CENTER: We are presently raising funds to remodel our new mission center in Pearisburg, Virginia. We need both volunteers and monetary assistance. (Note: Additional info is below.) **Any gift will be gratefully received.**

OTHER IMPORTANT NEEDS: Please continue to support our **Street Kids Fund**; **MLI Office—Uganda** (security, taxes, electric, water, etc.)—**any amount**; MLI Church Plant—Kigera really needs a permanent structure—**any amount appreciated**. **Monthly salaries for several staff members \$50** & two staff teachers **\$90** & and two pastors at **\$70** (Pastor Emma—Pic Left and Pastor Wasawa). **Pr. Stanley's** (MLI Instructor) upcoming marriage in May—**any amount appreciated!** **Thomas Kunya's Grandmother:** Digging latrine needing **\$155** to finish. **FOOD:** Due to sporadic rains, food prices are on the rise in Uganda. MLI must assist our staff and those connected with us with some financial aid to help them through this difficult season—**any amount appreciated**. **Office Laptop Computer Needed: Any amount appreciated.**



MEDICAL FUND: Giving **any amount** to the Medical Fund is greatly appreciated. MLI continues to have ongoing medical needs.

Widows Assisted—You will never know this side of eternity how much \$30 will do for a poor widow: My heart breaks for widows that live in a damp musky mud home that is not much bigger than a closet. When Candy and I eat out, we will spend on average \$30 which could easily relieve some of a widow's financial burden. There are so so many that long for assistance. Your sacrificial gift to a distressed widow will be a tremendous blessing. The relationship with your adopted widow will be very rewarding.



Please Help by Adopting a Poor Widow

If you have used cell phones laptops, electronic keyboards, school supplies, Christian books, we have a home for them as well.

This is a simple way to assist MLI. God Bless You!!

Rick's trip to Uganda will be May 15 through June 19. He will then return to Miami and help his daughter and family to move to the Fredericksburg area. Commander David Vicks of the Coast Guard (Heather's husband) has been awarded an opportunity to attend the prestigious "War School" at the Quantico Marine Corp Base.

Pearisburg Construction Team: We need electrician, plumber, carpenters, ceiling & floor tile, painters & laborers to remodel the MLI Office/warehouse in Pearisburg during the Spring/Summer of 2019. We have several believers from Va. Tech assisting with plumbing & electrical. We are also in communication with two churches who are planning to send teams to help with the remodeling. Funds greatly needed for building materials as well as help with feeding volunteers.

February and June Trips of 2020 are in the planning stage. Our February trip will be February 1 thru 14. Information on the June trip will be forthcoming directed/planned by a sponsoring church.



Thirty dollars (\$30) a month brings great happiness to an African Widow! **Will you prayerfully consider adopting this dear widow?** She needs a loving family.

Name: Manjeri Nabirye is 64 years old (1956) and cares for 3 children. Her husband died of motor accident 2015. **Testimonial:** I thank God for my salvation and for care and support through MLI. Manjeri Fellowships at Itukulu Baptist Church (Pastor Kadoko).